(c) UAVs were inducted in the Indian Army in 1996.

Chief of Defence Staff

2725. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether Government are considering any proposal of creating a post of Chief of Defence Staff for coordinating the Defence forces in the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Yes, Sir.

Providing protection to Mumbai and its encircling areas

†2726. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the entire areas in Mumbai encircling Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean has become very sensitive because of the presence of Headquarters of the Navy (Western Command), Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, oil refineries, oil extraction wells and platforms, Army ammunition stores and various ports there;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that in view of blasts in Mumbai and entering into the specific economic zone of a British detective ship recently has made it all the more necessary to strengthen the Army intelligence department; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) The presence of these establishments in Mumbai adds to the security sensitivity of the area.

(b) and (c) The Coast Guard in conjunction with the Navy carry out necessary patrolling and surveillance off the West Coast.

The case of the entry of UK Royal Navy Vessel HMS Scott in the

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) has already been taken up with the Government of UK at the appropriate level.

Group 'A' Engineer Officers leaving DGBR service

2727. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Group 'A' Engineer Officers are leaving the Directorate General Border Roads (DGBR) service in spite of the fact that there is an acute unemployment in the country;

(b) whether this does not indicate dominance, mismanagement and exploitation of General Reserve Engineering Force (GREF) officers in the hands of Army officers who are on the top of DGBR;

(c) whether GREF officers do not command dignity and job satisfaction and their high-tech qualification, knowledge and experience have no meaning; and

(d) if so, by when their dignity will be restored?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. Some Border Roads Engineering Service Officers, especially fresh recruits have left service, primarily due to deployment in remote border areas. Army and GREF officers are posted to Staff and Command appointments on regular tenure basis keeping in view their qualifications, experience and service profile. As ample opportunities are being provided to GREF officers, for furtherance of their career prospects, the question of any discrimination does not arise.

Subletting of quarters inside Red Fort

2728. SHRI ABANI ROY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that many quarters inside the Red Fort have been subletted by the Army to the civilians as reported in the Indian Express dated 26th December, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;